

The Interview Questions

- 1.) What decades did you attend elementary, middle, and high school during?
- 2.) What were your favorite aspects of school?
- 3.) What were your least favorite aspects of school?
- 4.) How do you think the time period you attended school during impacted your educational experience?
- 5.) Were any major educational reforms enacted while you were in school? If so, do you think that they were beneficial?
- 6.) When you were in school, were all your classmates treated equally?
- 7.) What changes would you make to improve the current American educational system?
- 8.) What is one thing you want future educators to know about the experience of being a student or teaching?

Cathy (64)

1960-1971

retired teacher in Northeastern Wisconsin

♥ social & academic aspects of school,
especially reading

students who lived on farms 😞
were picked on

too many students in one class

Vietnam War during high school

Attended a leadership conference in Madison

No calculators or computers

Native American students were treated as equals

Boys = leaders

Girls weren't encouraged to pursue college

Title IV took years to take effect

No LGBTQ visibility

No accommodations for students with disabilities

It's very important to create a "positive, loving environment for
students where they feel accepted for who they are and are
encouraged to take risks to learn"

"They have to know that you care about them."

Thoughts on the Current Educational System

- We need:
- - more mental health programs
- - to foster friendships between students
- - to strengthen families
- - to provide more resources for parents



Karen (49)

a nail technician in Quincy, MA
attended school during the 70's & 80's

♥ liked seeing friends & playing sports

didn't like being told what to do or doing math



had out of date textbooks & couldn't do much
about it

students with special needs were not often in
mainstream classes, but when they were, they were
treated equally

female volleyball program only, male wrestling team only

female and male students had the same educational &
vocational opportunities

the culture has changed; kids can't get away with the same
stuff they used to get away with
disturbing & graphic material is much more easily
accessible & accepted

Thoughts on the Current Educational System

We need more individualized learning that's tailored to each student's needs. Students should also have more say in what classes they want to take and what content they'd like to learn earlier on in their education. We also need to address the issue of cheating, & give students projects that aren't conducive to cheating.





Overlap

- both from rural areas in Northeastern Wisconsin
- both enjoyed the social aspect of school and agree that technology has changed the way that students interact
- while there was not a lot of racial diversity, both agreed that Native American students were seen as equal to their white peers
- students with learning disabilities did not receive any accommodations